number of sets are lying unutilised in various railway yards in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the orders placed with these firms alongwith the cost involved therein;

(c) whether both the MMTC and Nagaland Forest Cooperatives are commission agents for the supply of sleepers and MMTC had been blacklisted by the Railways sometime in 1993; and

(d) if so, the reasons which weighed with the Government to place orders on a black listed firm?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Orders have been placed for supply of wooden sleepers on MMTC (a Corporation of Central Government) and MARCOFED, Dimapur, Nagaland (a Corporation of Government of Nagaland), as under :

Name of Corporation	Quantity in cums.	Contract value
MMTC, New Delhi	43,000	Rs. 81.28 crores
MARCOFED, Dimapur, Nagaland	9,000	Rs. 16.61 crores
	52,000	Rs. 97.89 crores

It is not correct that 2000 sets are awiting despatch from various factories.

(c) Both the Corporations M/s MMTC and MARCOFED, Nagaland are Public Sector Undertakings owned by Central Government and Nagaland Government respectively. MMTC was not blacklisted by Railways in 1993.

(d) Does not arise.

New Railway Projects in Orissa

1344. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the new railway projects submitted by the Government of Orissa during the last three years;

(b) whether some of the proposals have been found unremunerative; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Four proposals for new lines have been received from the Orissa Government during the last three years. The position of these is as under :

1. Haridaspur - Paradeep : The work has been sanctioned.
2. Jeypore - Malkangiri - Kottamatta : A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.
3. Talchar - Bimlagarh : A survey has been taken up. Further consideration of the project will be possible once the survey report becomes available.
4. Jharsuguda - Bishrampur via Sundergarh : This project could not be considered due to resource crunch.

Renovation of Garifa Railway Station

1345. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned for renovation, lighting, seating arrangements, restoration of platforms, staircase, platform shed etc. for Garifa Railway Station under Howrah Division of Eastern Railway during the last three years;

(b) whether passenger amenities are almost nil in this station; and

(c) if so, the steps to be taken to provide above mentioned amenities to this station?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) Augmentation/provision of additional amenities is a continuous process. Garifa railway station is provided with amenities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic. Recently works of provision of platform shed and foot-over-bridge have been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 11.55 lakh. Besides, for lighting and provision of fans on the platform a work has also been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 34,700/-

Funds for Construction of Roads in Karnataka

1346. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the allocation of funds made to Karnataka for the construction of roads during the last three years; and

(b) the number of villages in Karnataka connected/ to be connected with roads?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Unauthorised Hawkers

1347. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the movement of huge local passengers/office goers using the ferry services are obstructing by the unauthorised hawkers at platforms No. 2 to 7 of Howrah railway station and the newly set up mini market;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to remove the unauthorised hawkers from the premises and scatter the Railway vending stalls to the walls of the concourse of the Railway station thereby to provide passage for the passengers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Regular drives are conducted from time to time to prevent entry of unauthorised hawkers and beggars in trains and at stations premises. In addition, Task Force Team comprising commercial and Government Railway Police/Railway Protection Force personnel is also deployed at all important stations/ trains including at Howrah station to prevent entry of unauthorised hawkers/vendors to the station premises. As a result of 437 checks conducted at Howrah station premises and trains during the period April to June, 1997, 62 unauthorised hawkers and venders have been arrested and prosecuted. Besides, some catering stalls have been removed from the south concourse to make room for free movement of passengers.

High Power Transmitter at Manpad

1348. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to instal High Power Transmitter at Manpad in Kannaur district of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) to (c) A High Power TV Transmitter (HPT) is envisaged to be set up in replacement of the existing Low Power TV Transmitter (LPT) at Cannanore in Kannur district of Kerala. A suitable site has been acquired at Mangattuparamba for the proposed HPT project at Cannanore. The actual implementation of the said HPT project would, however, depend upon approval of the scheme by the competent authority, subject to availability of resources and infrastructural facilities required for the purpose.

New PLF Norms for Liquid Fuel Base PP

1349. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item under the caption "New PLF norms to hit liquid fuel based power projects" appearing in the "Business Standard" dated 9-7-1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the likely adverse impact of the proposed revision in PLF norms on operation/profitability/economic viability of the liquid fuel based projects; and

(d) the details of representation received in this regard and action taken/proposed thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has laid down revised opertional norms, including Plant Load Factor (PLF), for Gas, Coal and liquid fuel based power stations. After considering representations received from various quarters. CEA had decided in May, 1997, that these norms will apply to only those projects, who are not able to submit their complete Detailed Project Reports in acceptable form, i.e., complete in all respects as per the requirements of the CEA on or before September 30, 1997.

[Translation]

Illegal Public Telephone Booths

1350. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether illegal public telephone booths are being run with the nexus of employees of telephone department in the various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken any action against them;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the manner in which such activities are proposed to be checked?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (d) The information is being colleceted and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

Out of Order Telephone Connections

1351. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of telephone connections under the Exchange 628, Nehru Place, New Delhi are out of order for the last couple of months;

(b) if so, the details of fault in the system;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(d) whether the telephone bills of such consumers have been accordingly appropriate; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?